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Cuba

PERS: Johnson, Haynes

I &amp; S 7-01 Cuba (Latin Amer)

PERS: Ray, Manuel

# OAS Foreign Ministers Open Parley on Cuban Aggression

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Venezuela today brings its charges of subversive aggression against Communist Cuba before the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States.

The four-day meeting called to consider the charges formally opened this afternoon in the Pan American Union.

Informal conferences have taken place for the last few days among leading officials of the Western Hemisphere. They have been trying to stop what threatens to be a split within the OAS over how strong a position to take on the Cuban question.

Four of the 20 countries—represented — Mexico, Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia—still maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. A vote of 13 will be needed to approve any sanctions.

"I think we are winning in our demands for fullest sanctions," said Enrique Tejera Paris, Venezuelan Ambassador, as he went into a closed-door meeting which preceded the opening session.

Brazil's Foreign Minister Vasco Leitao da Cunha was chosen president of the conference, and Foreign Minister Galileo Solis of Panama was elected vice president. Colombia's Foreign Minister, Fernando Gomez Martinez, is expected to be chosen president of the conference's general committee, a key post.

## FOE OF CASTRO IN WASHINGTON, NOT HOMELAND

Manuel Ray, the ubiquitous and to date unsuccessful Cuban underground leader who last week was widely reported as being on his way to Cuba once more, his way to Cuba again, is in Washington instead.

Mr. Ray, Fidel Castro's former minister of public works and chief sabotage expert, had pledged earlier this year that he would be inside Cuba leading an underground campaign by May 20. He failed when he was stopped by a British destroyer from leaving Nassau. Then last week he again was reported to have sailed for Key West.

A spokesman for Mr. Ray's movement, JURE, explained that he flew here Sunday to confer with friends and will leave later for an undisclosed location.

As an indication of the strong feelings that surround the conference, Mexico declined to send its Foreign Minister and is being represented only by its OAS Ambassador.

Leading the search for a compromise position on which the countries can unite is Brazil.

The United States, led by Secretary of State Rusk, takes the position that any action which further isolates Fidel Castro's Cuba from the other nations of the hemisphere is in its interest.

Venezuela seeks a diplomatic and trade quarantine on Cuba by the OAS, and wants acts of subversion committed by Cuba to be labeled as an aggression.

Venezuela's charges are based on what it claims was an attempt by Cuban infiltrators to subvert and overthrow its government last fall.

A three-ton cache of arms was discovered buried in the sand on the Paraguana Peninsula of Venezuela. Investigation determined that the arms were of Cuban origin. Venezuela, which earlier had been the target of Cuban infiltration, formally invoked Article 6 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (the Rio Treaty) last November 29.

An OAS investigating committee on February 24 confirmed the charges, and in a report stated:

"The Republic of Venezuela has been the target of a series of actions sponsored and directed by the government of Cuba, openly intended to subvert Venezuelan institutions and to overthrow the democratic Government of Venezuela through terrorism, sabotage, assault and guerrilla warfare."

Venezuela wants the OAS to

aggressively intervening in its affairs. It also wants the member countries to co-operate in establishing systems of air, sea and land surveillance in waters off their coasts and along their boundaries to detect infiltrators or suspected shipments of arms or munitions.

In addition, the OAS is expected to be asked to approve a resolution suspending all commercial relations between the member states and Cuba. Food and medicine would be exempted from that provision.

Another proposed resolution would cut all sea transportation with Cuba. Still another calls for the severing of diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba for those countries which have not yet done so. In that provision, all air communication also would be ended with Cuba.

The conference today began at a time when the Cuban issue was being raised again within the United States.

At the Republican National Convention last week the party's nominees, Senator Goldwater and Representative Miller, cited Cuba and the failure to free the island at the Bay of Pigs invasion as a campaign issue.

It is no secret that many Cuban exiles strongly support Senator Goldwater because of his "hard-line" position toward Fidel Castro.